THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (e) The National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) procures agricultural commodities directly from farmers and from cooperatives and assists in increasing returns to them. The procurement is generally on the prevailing market rates in various regulated Mandies through open auctions. The rates, therefore, vary from day-to-day and place to place depending upon the timing, demand, supply, quality of the commodity and market prices as well as crop situation.

NAFED also acts as a Public Agency for distribution of some scarce agricultural commodities at reasonable price to protect consumers' interest. NAFED's prices are generally competitive and favourable to farmers as well as consumers. In fixing the selling price, quality of goods is given weightage. The various components or selling price include commodity price, statutory levies, service charges, incidental expenses, warehouse charges, carrying costs; shortages, transportation and selling expenses, etc.

NAFED does not have a chain of retail outlets in the country as the distribution of consumer goods is not its primary objective. It has, however, set up two retail outlets bassically to meet the requirements of its own employees at Lawrence Road and of Government employees in Krishi Bhavan. The latest rates of various items sold in its retail outlets as compared to the market rates and those prevailing in the Super Bazar are given in the Appendix [*See* appendix CXLV Annexure No. 93.] Retails prices of processed foods and eggs were cheapest in the outlets of the NAFED whereas in respect of other grocery items, the rates of NAFED and Super Bazar were more or less the same with minor variations

Suggestion for National Housing Technology Mission

2486. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently concluded seminar on Low Cost Housing passed a resolution for launching a National Housing Technology Mission;

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto; and

(c) what were other important recommendations of the seminar and whether these are likely to be accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The other important recommendations of the seminar were as follows:

(i) At least one Building Centre should be set up in every district in the country;

(ii) Housing Advisory Councils should be set up at National State and local levels in every country;

(iii) slum upgradation and environmental improvement programme should be encouraged; and

(iv) A National Institute for Housing Human Settlements should be established;

The recommendations of the Seminar are under consideration of the Government.

Five Day Week in the Offices under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

2487. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the offices under his Ministry have switched over to five-day week system;

(b) if not, which are the offices which have not so far switched over to the five day week system;

(c) whether offices of similar nature are following different pattern in terms of five or six day week; and

(d) whether there has been representation against these discrimination, if so, what steps are being taken to correct this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per annexed statement (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Administrative Staff Association of All India Radio, Ahmedabad has filed a suit in Central Administrative Tribunal, Ahmedabad Bench pleading for 5 day week pattern for All India Radio Station's staff. The case is *sub judice*. Initially Photo Division switched over to 5 day week but subsequently in October, 1985 it reverted back to 6 day week because it did not come in the category of Civil Administrative Office. However as proposal has been received from Photo Division against 6 day week which is under consideration.

Statement

The following offices have switched over to 5 day week system:

1. Press Information Bureau;
2. Registrar for Newspaper of India;
3. Directorate of Field Publicity;
4. Research & Reference Division; and
5. Press Council of India

Other Media Units are partly following the 5-day week system as indicted below:—

(1) *Directorate General—All India Radio*:

The headquarter office is observing 5-day week. However, non-administrative offices including field offices, operational units, project offices, etc. of All India Radio have not switched over to 5-day week and continue to function on 6-day week pattern.

(2) *Directorate General—Doordarshan*:

All the staff in Directorate General, Doordarshan, Mandi House and Central Purchase and Store Office are following 5-day week system.

However, other offices under the Directorate located throughout India are following the old system of 6-day week with 2nd Saturday closed or shift system as per need.

(3) *Song & Drama Division*:

The Headquarter and all Regional Offices of the Division are observing 5-day week. However, the Departmental Troupes located at Headquarters and Regional Centres alongwith staff attached with Departmental Troupes and also of sub-centres of Song and Drama Division which have departmental troupes are observing 6-day week.

(4) *Directorate of the Field Publicity*:

The Administrative Offices of the Directorate have switched over to 5-day week. i.e. Directorate Headquarter in New Delhi and its 22 Regional Offices. 257 Field Publicity Units are observing 6-day week.

(5) *Photo Division*:

6 day week.

Postponement of annual convocation function of Indian Agricultural Research Institute

2488. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual convocation function of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has been indefinitely postponed following threats by the students and the faculty member to boycott the convocation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps have been